

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 /137 W
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R 271308Z JUL 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9719
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL -- DISC

REF: STATE 172156

1. GATT COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF DISC WAS MAINLY A REPETITION OF ARGUMENTS ADVANCED AT LAST TWO COUNCIL MEETINGS. THE EC, SUPPORTED BY SEPARATE STATEMENTS FROM FRANCE, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS AGAIN ATTEMPTED TO SEPARATE COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE DISC FROM COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE PANEL REPORTS ON THE TAX PRACTICES IN FRANCE, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS. ONLY NEW ELEMENT WAS REFERENCES TO THE REPORT BY INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTING EC POSITION AND LATEST FRENCH PAPER (GATT DOCUMENT C/97/ADD.1) CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF "EXPORT ACTIVITY" USED BY THE PANELS IN ARRIVING AT THEIR
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RECOMMENDATIONS.
2. JAPAN, CANADA, AND AUSTRIA SUPPORTED THE EC, CALLED FOR ADOPTION OF PANEL REPORT ON DISC AND FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PANEL REPORTS. SEVERAL DELS NOTED US INDICATIONS THAT US ADMINISTRATION MAY REQUEST CONGRESS TO ABOLISH THE DISC, AND THEY URGED PROMPT US ACTION.

3. AS AT PAST MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, WE CONTINUED TO LINK THE FOUR PANEL REPORTS, DRAWING UPON TALKING POINTS IN REFTTEL, AND URGED COUNCIL TO ADOPT ALL PANEL REPORTS TOGETHER. THE NORDICS NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING NORMAL GATT PROCEDURES IN ADOPTING ALL REPORTS, AND THE NIGERIANS SURPRISINGLY CALLED FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE FOUR REPORTS.

4. LUYTEN ASSERTED THAT PANELS ON FRENCH, BELGIAN AND DUTCH PRACTICES HAD REACHED ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION, AND THAT IN VIEW ICC PAPER AND DOCUMENTS FROM DELEGATIONS THOSE COUNTRIES, GATT COUNCIL MEMBERS NOW HAD SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION BEFORE THEM TO ANALYZE ARGUMENTS AND ARRIVE AT INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT. IN RESPONSE, WE RECALLED THAT EC HAD BLOCKED OUR EARLIER REQUEST (WHICH IS STILL ON THE TABLE) THAT BRIEFS AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED TO PANELS BE DE-RESTRICTED AND CIRCULATED, AND THAT WITHOUT HAVING SUCH MATERIAL, COUNCIL MEMBERS REALLY IN NO POSITION TRY TO SECOND GUESS THE PANEL.

5. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING LACK OF CONSENSUS, CHAIRMAN CARRIED AGENDA ITEM OVER TO NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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